

including Gil Garcetti, the Los Angeles District Attorney; the late Sherman Block, then Los Angeles County Sheriff; the Los Angeles County Police Chiefs' Association; and the Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs.

The Hispanic National Bar Association, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the League of United Latin American Citizens, the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, and many, many others have been seeking a vote on this nomination for what now amounts to years.

I want to commend the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee for his steadfast support of this nominee and Senator BOXER and Senator FEINSTEIN of California for their efforts on his behalf.

Last year the words of the Chief Justice of the United States were ringing in our ears with respect to the delays in Senate consideration of judicial nomination. He had written: "Some current nominees have been waiting a considerable time for a Senate Judiciary Committee vote or a final floor vote. . . . The Senate is surely under no obligation to confirm any particular nominee, but after the necessary time for inquiry it should vote him up or vote him down." Those words resonate with respect to the nomination of Judge Paez.

I trust the American people recognize who is playing politics with the issue of clemency. I disagreed with the President's decision, but it was his to make. He says that he granted clemency with conditions after study and based on a sense of proportion and justice. The calls for clemency in these cases came from Bishop Tutu, Coretta Scott King, other Nobel peace prize winners, a number of churches and religious groups. It has drawn praise in some circles and criticism in others.

I do not agree with the President, but I caution that the overreaching by Republican critics in the Congress on this is worrisome, as well. To contend that this shows a weakness of resolve against international terrorism is both wrong and may itself be creating a dangerous atmosphere.

We ought to be careful when anyone, let alone the Senate and Congress of the United States, start bandying about declarations that accuse the United States Government of making "deplorable concessions to terrorists," "undermining national security" or "emboldening domestic and international terrorists."

Playing politics with this matter and accusing the President of "undermining our national security" or "emboldening terrorists" carries significant risks. Could a potential terrorist somewhere in the world believe this political rhetoric and be "emboldened" by it? This is risky business. I do not believe the short-

term political gain to the other party is worth having the Senate endorse a resolution that might itself have precisely that effect.

The Senate cannot find time to vote on the nomination of Judge Richard Paez or that of Bill Lann Lee to head the Civil Rights Division or that of Justice Ronnie White to be a Federal judge in Missouri or any of the scores of other nominees pending before it. The Senate has not completed work on 11 of the 13 appropriations bills that must be passed before October 1. The Republican Congress cannot find time to consider campaign finance reform or pass a real patients' bill of rights or consider raising the minimum wage or reforming Medicare or complete the juvenile crime bill conference, but there is plenty of time for floor debate and on the President's decision to exercise his clemency power. The Senate has had three hearings on judicial nominations all year and the Republican Congress will have that many hearings on the clemency decision this week.

In closing, I ask: If the Senate has the time to debate and vote on this resolution, why does it not have time to vote on the nomination of Judge Richard Paez to the Ninth Circuit?

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, September 13, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,654,837,966,230.82 (Five trillion, six hundred fifty-four billion, eight hundred thirty-seven million, nine hundred sixty-six thousand, two hundred thirty dollars and eighty-two cents).

Five years ago, September 13, 1994, the Federal debt stood at \$4,681,594,000,000 (Four trillion, six hundred eighty-one billion, five hundred ninety-four million).

Ten years ago, September 13, 1989, the Federal debt stood at \$2,853,357,000,000 (Two trillion, eight hundred fifty-three billion, three hundred fifty-seven million).

Fifteen years ago, September 13, 1984, the Federal debt stood at \$1,572,267,000,000 (One trillion, five hundred seventy-two billion, two hundred sixty-seven million).

Twenty-five years ago, September 13, 1974, the Federal debt stood at \$480,717,000,000 (Four hundred eighty billion, seven hundred seventeen million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,174,120,966,230.82 (Five trillion, one hundred seventy-four billion, one hundred twenty million, nine hundred sixty-six thousand, two hundred thirty dollars and eighty-two cents) during the past 25 years.

#### APEC AND THE WTO

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to address recent developments

in the world trading system that occurred over the past several days at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meetings.

Since its birth in 1989, APEC has been a useful forum to advance U.S. goals for world trade. In 1993, President Clinton hosted the first summit meeting of APEC leaders. That meeting helped to nudge the Uruguay Round of global trade talks to a successful conclusion. The following year, APEC leaders made a political commitment to free trade in the Pacific Basin by a date certain. Two years later, APEC leaders prodded WTO members to sign Information Technology Agreement. That agreement eliminates tariffs on products where U.S. companies have a clear advantage.

APEC has also launched some worthwhile projects aimed at making it easier to do business in the Pacific Rim.

The 21 members of APEC are responsible for almost half of the world's trade. They include country's at various stages of economic development. Members are as diverse as Papua New Guinea, Russia, Peru, and Australia. APEC is the only organization where China, Taiwan and Hong Kong sit together as equals to discuss economic issues. In 1998, U.S. trade with APEC members was just over one trillion dollars, about 70% of our trade. Our three biggest trading partners—Canada, Mexico and Japan—are in APEC.

Last week in Auckland, New Zealand, APEC's trade and foreign ministers held their annual meeting. This was followed by the annual summit meeting of APEC leaders, including President Clinton. These meetings provided an opportunity for using APEC to further American trade interests in two ways. One was bilateral. It dealt with U.S.-China relations. The other was multilateral. It dealt with the World Trade Organization (WTO).

On the bilateral front, the annual APEC summit meeting provided President Clinton an opportunity to meet with China's President Jiang Zemin and get our relations with China on track. In particular, it was a chance to restart the talks on China's accession to the WTO.

To join the WTO, China must make one-way concessions in order to gain permanent Normal Trade Relations (NTR) status. Before the China trade talks broke down for political reasons unrelated to trade, China made some important commitments to us in its accession protocol. For example, in addition to tariff cuts and agriculture concessions, China promised to eliminate technology transfer requirements for investment licenses. It will end investment performance requirements designed to take jobs from other countries.

China's WTO accession requires no American trade concessions. And China

has agreed to a "product-specific safeguard" which will strengthen our ability to fight sudden import surges. A good accession protocol will be good for America. The Clinton-Jiang meeting in Auckland infused our bilateral trade talks with new life.

The U.S. negotiators thus far have done an excellent job. They have already offered American farmers a ray of hope during a very difficult year. And we are close to an accession that will make trade with China fundamentally more fair for our country. It will then be up to this Senate, and to our colleagues, to take the final step by making the normal trade relations we now offer to China permanent.

On the multilateral end, the Auckland meetings were an opportunity for APEC members to show a united front for progress to the other members of the WTO. There was some forward movement on this in Auckland, but not as much as we needed. The key issue is how much we should achieve in the next WTO trade round. The next round will be launched two months from now, when the United States hosts the Seattle WTO Ministerial.

In this regard, last week I introduced Senate Concurrent Resolution 55. It contained the elements of what I believe we should achieve in the next round. At their Auckland meeting, APEC trade ministers endorsed a number of these elements. Procedurally, they said that the talks should be completed in three years, rather than the seven years it took for the Uruguay Round. They said that WTO members should treat the talks as one single package, not a collection of separate topics where members can opt out of the tough issues. They mentioned the need to address tariffs on manufactured products.

All that was useful. But the APEC ministers did not go far enough. President Clinton and the leaders of the other APEC members set out ambitious goals for them five years ago. To achieve those goals, the trade ministers must set specific targets. In agriculture, for example, the Auckland meeting supported abolishing all export subsidies. That is a specific, ambitious target. We need the same specificity on other agricultural trade issues which, such as tariffs, trade-distorting domestic subsidies, and government trading companies. It would have been very helpful to have APEC trade ministers support progress in these areas.

The trade ministers should have made a much stronger statement on trade in services. This is not only an important component of developed economies. Services of all sectors—financial, communications, legal, engineering—are vital to developing nations as well.

I wish the APEC trade ministers had been more concrete and specific in

their treatment of the WTO talks. I hope this does not foreshadow three years of negotiations which yield weak results.

Finally, I would like to endorse a point that the heads of the APEC governments made in their summit communiqué. They noted that great disparities in wealth threaten social stability. That is true both within a country and between nations. We must ensure that the benefits of globalization are widely shared. We must show that the global trading system improves the quality of life for WTO members.

We need to emphasize the human dimension of globalization. That human includes issues such as labor and the environment, which APEC ministers and leaders largely ignored at Auckland. I hope that future meetings of APEC summits focus on these issues, and that APEC becomes a positive force for their full consideration in the WTO.

#### VOTE ANNOUNCEMENT CORRECTION

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, on rollcall vote #8, if I had been present, I would have voted nay. My position was announced as aye.

I ask unanimous consent that the permanent RECORD be corrected to reflect how I would have voted, if I had been present.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Thank you, Mr. President.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

##### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

##### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 9:44 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Berry, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 457. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to increase the amount of leave time available to a Federal employee in any year in connection with serving as an organ donor, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

At 1:52 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 658. An act to establish the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in the State of New York as an affiliated area of the National Park System.

H.R. 898. An act designating certain land in the San Isabel National Forest in the State of Colorado as the "Spanish Peaks Wilderness".

H.R. 940. An act to establish the Lackawanna Heritage Valley American Heritage Area.

H.R. 1619. An act to amend the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor Act of 1994 to expand the boundaries of the Corridor.

H.R. 1651. An act to amend the Fisherman's Protective Act of 1967 to extend the period during which reimbursement may be provided to owners of United States fishing vessels for costs incurred when such a vessel is seized and detained by a foreign country.

H.R. 2112. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to allow a judge to whom a case is transferred to retain jurisdiction over certain multidistrict litigation cases for trial, and to provide for Federal jurisdiction of certain multiparty, multiforum civil actions.

H.R. 2368. An act to assist in the resettlement and relocation of the people of Bikini Atoll by amending the terms of the trust fund established during the United States administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 184. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the importance of "family friendly" programming on television.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following Senate bill, without amendment:

S. 380. An act to reauthorize the Congressional Award Act.

The message also announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1906) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, and agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses, thereon; and appoints Mr. SKEEN, Mr. WALSH, Mr. DICKEY, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. NETHERCUTT, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. LATHAM, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. DELAULO, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. FARR of California, Mr. BOYD, and Mr. OBEY, as the managers of the conference on the part of the House.

The message further announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2561) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other